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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/844,164	04/27/2001	Ryan Robertson	35451/126 (3623.Palm)	1779

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EXAMINER

CONTEE, JOY KIMBERLY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2686

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2003

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/844,164

Applicant(s)

ROBERTSON ET AL.

Examiner

Joy K Contee

Art Unit

2686

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 April 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 18-20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,8-13,15-17 and 21-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 6,7 and 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3,8,11,15 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kennedy, III et al. ("Kennedy, III"), in view of Hess, U.S. Patent No. 5,777,551.

Regarding claim 1, Kennedy III discloses a handheld computing device, comprising:

an housing (i.e., inherently reads on hand-held or portable mobile unit 12) (col. 4, lines 1-11) ;

a processor (i.e., reads on processor 38) supported by the housing (col. 4, lines 1-30);

a wireless telephony device(i.e., reads on cellular transceiver) coupled to the processor (col. 4, lines 23-30);

a display having a graphical user interface coupled to the processor (i.e., reads on user interface 22) (col. 4, lines 12-22); and

a plurality of input keys (i.e., reads on buttons on user interface) (col. 4, lines 12-22);

wherein the device is programmed to effectuate a predetermined communications connection (e.g., with emergency personnel) when a user depresses input keys (e.g., emergency button and roadside assistance) (col. 13, lines 55-59 and col. 14, line 65 to col. 15, line 11).

Kennedy, III does not explicitly disclose simultaneous depression of two or more input keys to effectuate a predetermined communication.

In a similar field of endeavor, Hess suggests an interface control panel containing a panic/ambush feature which allows the user to activate the alarm sequence, which includes a call by the push of one or two buttons (col. 3, lines 60-63).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kennedy, III to include simultaneous depression of two input keys to effectuate a predetermined communication to reduce false alarms, that is, if one button depression is required there may be more false alarms.

Regarding claim 2, the combination of Kennedy, III and Hess disclose the handheld computing device of claim 1. Hess further discloses wherein the predetermined communications connection is effectuated by dialing a predetermined telephone number (e.g., to remote security station) (col. 4, lines 15-25).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kennedy, III to include dialing a predetermined telephone number since Kennedy already discloses contacting emergency personnel via service messages.

Regarding claim 3, the combination of Kennedy and Hess discloses the handheld computing device of claim 2, wherein the predetermined number is the number for an emergency service (i.e., security monitor station or 911 office) (see Hess, col. 4, lines 37-46).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kennedy, III to include dialing a predetermined telephone number for emergency service since Kennedy already discloses contacting emergency personnel via service messages.

Regarding claim 8, the combination of Kennedy, III and Hess disclose the handheld computing device of claim 3, wherein the device calls the emergency service by dialing 9-1-1 (i.e., reads on call forwarded to 911 office) (see Hess, col. 4, lines 37-46).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kennedy, III to include dialing "9-1-1" to contact emergency services for the purpose of providing direct access to emergency personnel.

Regarding claim 11, Kennedy, III discloses a method of making an emergency request, comprising the steps of:

providing a handheld computing device (i.e., reads on mobile unit 12 comprising computing device 30) having wireless communication capability and having two or more user input devices (i.e., buttons) (col. 4, lines 1-30 and col. 13, lines 50-65).

Kennedy, III fails to explicitly disclose activating two or more user input devices simultaneously, whereby the device effectuates a communications channel to an emergency service.

In a similar field of endeavor, Hess suggests an interface control panel containing a panic/ambush feature which allows the user to activate the alarm sequence, which includes a call by the push of one or two buttons (col. 3, lines 60-63).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kennedy, III to include simultaneous depression of two input keys to effectuate a predetermined communication to reduce false alarms, that is, if one button depression is required there may be more false alarms.

Regarding claim 15, the combination of Kennedy, III and Hess disclose the method of making an emergency request of claim 11, wherein the communications channel is a telephone connection to an emergency service made by dialing 9-1-1 (i.e., reads on call forwarded to 911 office) (see Hess, col. 4, lines 37-46).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kennedy, III to include dialing "9-1-1" to contact emergency services for the purpose of providing direct access to emergency personnel.

Regarding claim 21, Kennedy, III discloses a handheld computer, comprising:

- a processor (col. 4, lines 23-30);
- a plurality of user input keys coupled to the processor (col. 13, lines 31-65);
- a wireless telephony device coupled to the processor (col. 4, lines 1-30).

Kennedy, III fails to explicitly disclose a display including a touch screen coupled to the processor and an operating system running on the processor; whereby the operating system is configured to call an emergency service when two or more user input keys are pressed simultaneously.

However, a PDA, e.g., Palm Pilot, including a touch screen with use of stylus is well known in the art.

In a similar field of endeavor Hess suggests an operating system (i.e., reads on microprocessor) configured to call an emergency service when two user input keys are pressed simultaneously (col. 3, lines 37-63).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kennedy, III to include simultaneous depression of two input keys to effectuate a predetermined communication to reduce false alarms, that is, if one button depression is required there may be more false alarms.

3. Claims 4,12,24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kennedy, III and Hess, in view of Yasuda et al. ("Yasuda"), U.S. Patent No. 5,901,365.

Regarding claims 4,12 and 24, Kennedy, III and Hess disclose the handheld computing device of claims 1, 11 and 21, respectively. The combination fails to explicitly disclose, wherein the user must depress and hold the two or more input keys for greater than one second (or at least one second) to effectuate the predetermined communications connection.

In a similar field of endeavor, Yasuda provides evidence of receiving an affirmative result for a key depression of a period of one second or more (col. 3, lines 27-33 and lines 51-56).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination of Kennedy, III and Hess to include an extended key depression for an emergency call for the purpose of providing an affirmative result as to decrease false alarms.

4. Claims 5,13 and 23 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kennedy, III and Hess, in view of Asari et al. ("Asari"), U.S. Patent No. 6,031,470.

Regarding claims 5, 13 and 23, the combination of Kennedy, III and Hess disclose the handheld computing device of claims 1,11 and 21. The combination does not explicitly disclose, wherein the user must depress four input keys simultaneously to effectuate the predetermined communications connection.

In a similar field of endeavor, Asari provides evidence in a wireless means for plural key operation (i.e., up to four keys) (col. 6, lines 55-59), wherein said keyboard realizes a variety of key operation forms or modes based on simultaneous operation of large number of keys (col. 1, lines 50-59).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination of Kennedy III and Hess to include plural key operation up to four keys for the purpose of further decreasing possibility of an erroneous operation (see Asari, col. 1, lines 55-59).

5. Claims 10 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kennedy, III and Hess, in view of Kienberger, U.S. Patent No. 5,467,387.

Regarding claims 10 and 17, the combination of Kennedy, III and Hess disclose the device of claims 1 and 11, respectively. a plurality of navigation buttons, wherein the device is programmed to effectuate the predetermined communications connection when a combination of the navigation buttons and the input keys is depressed simultaneously.

In a similar field of endeavor, Kienberger provides of evidence of using navigation buttons and a numerical key to activate a subscriber performance feature (col. 2, lines 37-45).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kennedy, III to include simultaneous depression of navigation buttons and the input keys to effectuate a predetermined communication to further reduce false alarms, that is, if one button depression is required there may be more false alarms.

Claims 9 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kennedy, III and Hess, in view of Nilsson et al. ("Nilsson"), U.S. Patent No. 6,332,073.

Regarding claims 9 and 16, the combination of Kennedy, III and Hess disclose the device of claims 3 and 11, respectively. The combination fails to explicitly disclose wherein the device calls the emergency service by dialing 1-1-2.

In a similar field of endeavor, Nilsson suggests dialing "1-1-2" for emergency service (col. 1, lines 15-17).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination to include emergency dialing to "1-1-2" if the user/mobile unit were in Sweden where the string is customary.

6. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kennedy, III and Hess, in view of Shaanan et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,332,084.

Regarding claim 22, the combination of Kennedy, III and Hess discloses the handheld computer of claim 21. The combination fails to disclose, wherein the handheld computer does not include a mechanical telephone keypad.

In a similar field of endeavor, Shaanane discloses wherein the handheld computer does not include a mechanical telephone keypad (i.e., reads on touch screen is programmed to display a soft version of a conventional hard keypad) (col. 2, lines 21-29).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination of Kennedy, III and Hess to include a non-mechanical keypad for the purpose of providing a lighter weight mobile device, e.g., PDA.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 18-20 are allowed.

8. Claims 6,7,14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Prior art fails to explicitly disclose method of programming a handheld computer having a hardware abstraction layer, an operating system, and wireless communication capability to call an emergency service in response to user input, comprising the steps of: programming the hardware abstraction layer to direct the operating system to dial the emergency service when a user activates a certain combination of input devices simultaneously. Prior art fails to disclose in combination with the limitations of independent claims wherein the device effectuates the predetermined communications connection regardless of whether the wireless telephony device is powered on or wherein the device effectuates the communications channel to the emergency service regardless of the state of any software operating on the device.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Gilbert, U.S. Patent No. 5,365,568, discloses a smoke detector with automatic dialing.

Boling et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,636,732, discloses an emergency phone with single-button activation.

Dixit et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,449,472, discloses a system and method for remote convenience function control with at-vehicle and remote assistance summoning functions.

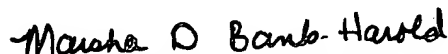
11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joy K Contee whose telephone number is 703-308-0149. The examiner can normally be reached on 5:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marsha Banks-Harold can be reached on 703-305-4379. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-0377.


Joy Contee

November 15, 2003


MARSHA D. BANKS-HAROLD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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